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LB 915

storefront but I have no idea how many more are operating out of their briefcase or out of their hip pocket. We know that there are a lot of them. So how in the world are you going to control anything like that? We will have bookies. We always have had. We always will have. This really has nothing to do with that. Those of you that have gone to the races know there is a certain amount of atmosphere involved. You have the roar of the crowd when the horses are coming down the stretch and I would submit to you that we won't have much of an atmosphere at the racetracks if this thing evolves and goes the way that it has been and we run a horse race for 25 or 30 guys sitting there with a briefcase full of money. That is not what it is all about. I would emphasize again we are not talking morality here. Every time we try to do that on this floor we get into trouble. We are talking practicality, just practical common sense. It is a given fact that a lot of messengers existing today are known bookmakers. I think we would all admit that under this business there is a temptation to just book the poor bets. And these people are very knowledgeable as far as horses are concerned and I think if it were you or I and we saw an obviously bad bet, the place to go...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR RUPP: ...might be in the drawer. Thank you. This would be the first time I have ever used my five minutes down here so I hope you understand I feel a little strongly about this issue. The lobbyist for the messengers said in committee hearing, these people are no different than a floral delivery service, people delivering flowers, and I guess to that I would respond, who are we trying to kid. I hope you read the handout that I passed out just a minute ago. Finally, on behalf of Columbus races and all the tracks in Nebraska, the entire racing industry, I would ask you just simply to look at your book, read the committee statement, see that there were no negative votes coming out of committee. This was on consent calendar but it was removed. Look at the people that testified in favor of the bill unamended, the Omaha Police Chief, Lancaster County Attorney, etcetera. So once again I would urge you to reject all the amendments. I understand there is a kill